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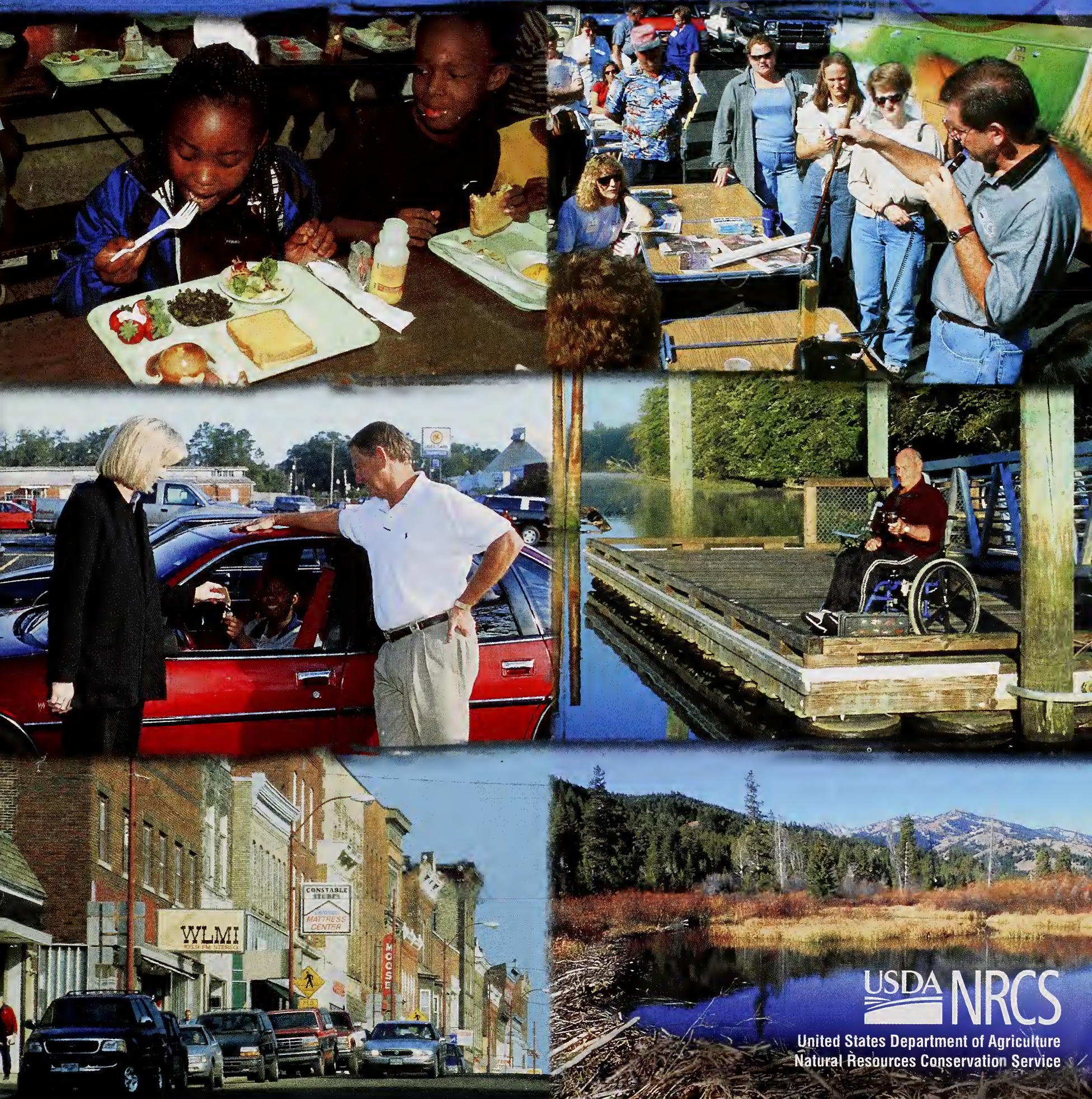
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Resource Conservation and Development

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Partnerships Serving America's Communities



USDA NRCS

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

The United States Department of Agriculture's Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program helps people in rural areas plan and carry out activities that increase conservation of natural resources, support economic development, and enhance the environment and standard of living in local communities.

Because RC&D areas are locally organized, sponsored, and led, the program provides an ideal way for residents to join together to decide what is best for their community. USDA provides technical and financial assistance and sponsors obtain additional funding and services from a variety of other sources.

RC&D is successful because it provides people with the means to solve natural resource problems and promote sustainable use of natural resources at the local level.

The premise of the RC&D program is that local people know what is best for their communities.

Because of this, local people create and organize their own RC&D areas, define their own goals, and work with a broad range of public and private entities to achieve their objectives.

People in the community make the choices for their community—whether they work on land conservation, water management, environmental enhancement, community development, or something unique to their particular area. In every case, local people are the decisionmakers.

USDA Partners

Natural Resources Conservation Service,
in cooperation with—

Agricultural Research Service

Cooperative State Research, Education,
and Extension Service

Economic Research Service

Farm Service Agency

Food and Nutrition Service

Forest Service

Rural Development

Office of Community Development

Rural Utilities Service



Downtown Revitalization Project—In this rural community, “Main Street” gets an economic development boost through new jobs, job training, and skills development, as well as a renovated community center and a toy shop that uses hardwood trees indigenous to the area. A project of: Headwaters RC&D, Du Bois, Pennsylvania



School Lunch Program—Partnerships between local producers and schools in the community provide fresh vegetables so that local school children have nutritionally balanced meals. A project of: West Florida RC&D, Marianna, Florida

Benefits

RC&D makes communities better places to live in. RC&D projects provide practical solutions for —

Community Development

Across the country, councils help create jobs and sponsor job training and skills development programs. Councils also work to improve or acquire needed community facilities, such as recreation structures, sewage treatment plants, solid waste disposal systems, water systems, and roads.

Land Conservation

By encouraging land conservation, RC&D councils improve soil quality, reduce soil erosion, and help keep sediment out of water supplies.

Environmental Enhancement

Environmental projects improve natural resources for agricultural and other uses, such as tourism, fish and wildlife habitat, and environmental education. Projects also may promote and preserve historical and scenic sites.

Water Management

RC&D councils work to protect water resources by encouraging wise water use, controlling flooding, and improving the quality of local water supplies.



Wheels to Work — Interest-free loans to purchase vehicles are offered to qualified participants on public assistance whose barrier to getting a job is transportation. “Wheels to Work” is an opportunity for clients who want to become gainfully employed. A project of: Golden Triangle RC&D, Blakeley, Georgia

For More Information

Additional information on RC&D, including a national map, directory of RC&D contacts, success stories, and links to RC&D area websites, is available on the web at www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/RCCD/homepag3.htm.



Wheelchair-Accessible Lake — “Friend’s Landing” is a wheelchair-accessible lake with fishing docks that is used for recreation, conservation education, and tours. A project of: Columbia-Pacific RC&D, Aberdeen, Washington



Wetland/Pond Filtration Project — Water management projects, such as a canal diversion or a series of wetlands and ponds, are vital for filtering contaminants before they enter local streams. A project of: Wood River RC&D, Gooding, Idaho



Conservation on Wheels — A bus was converted into a mobile conservation education classroom and is used for teacher demonstrations and youth education. A project of: South Coast RC&D, Riverside, California

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